

Minutes of the ORAC meeting held 20 January 2009

Those present: Steve, Dawn, Andrew, Di, Nigel, Donald, Ryk, Linda, Scott and Gordon.

Apologies: Rob, Daniel and Amanda

Chairman's Welcome/Remarks: Steve thanked everyone for their hard work and support throughout 2008. The Christmas meal had been very well supported and several pleasing comments had been received.

Minutes of the previous meeting: were read and agreed.

Secretary: A letter had been received from Occold Parish Council, following the joint meeting with ORAC on 25 November 2008. This was read out and Di was asked to send a letter in reply.

Discussion took place around the idea of holding a joint meeting of all the various groups in the village, perhaps once every six months, with one representative from each group attending. Di was asked to write to each group to see if there was a consensus of agreement for this.

Treasurer: It was announced that £428.98 had been raised from the Christmas meal.

The first payment had been made to ES&H for the new village hall build.

Dawn distributed the accounts and various items on these were discussed and explained.

At present the shortfall for the new village hall was £5229.00 and fund-raising ideas would be discussed later in the meeting.

Dawn raised the matter of whether the '100 Club' should still be run. This had originally been set up to fund repairs of and to buy sundry equipment for the village hall. Following some discussion, it was agreed unanimously that the '100 Club' would be wound up.

Oracle: Di told the meeting that she was now co-editing the Oracle with Andy. She was particularly responsible for the insert with the 'What's On' sections.

Web-Site: Steve asked everyone to have a look at the web-site, as Barry had been doing quite a bit of work to improve this, for example a new bookings calendar was now available through the

web-site. All the work that Barry did, much of it behind the scenes, was much appreciated. Regular updated photographs of the building work could also be seen on the site.

Village Hall: A mouse had been seen in the hall and Andrew had set traps.

Play Area: Andrew said that we still needed to consider the replacement of the swing fixing points, as requested in the latest ROSPA report.

A hold would be placed on provision of extra seating in the play area at present, and Andrew would contact ROSPA to see if there were any issues regarding space for these in this area.

New Village Hall: The actual bar design had now been removed from the plans, pending further consideration. Sarah was still to issue a re-worked design for the toilet facilities attached to the Pre-school room. The flooring was also still to be finalised in this area.

It was announced that the hand-over date for the new hall was now 7 August 2009.

Sarah would also be contacted regarding the setting of fire evacuation routes and muster points. A site meeting will be held once a month, with a member of ORAC in attendance. The schedule of works was circulated for everyone's information.

Fund Raising: Ideas were discussed for fund raising events and the following were decided upon:-

18 April Quiz night with fish and chip supper

23 May Rock 'n Roll Night at Athelington Hall

4 July Garage/Yard sale throughout the village

29 August Grand opening of the new village hall. To utilise both the hall and the playing field. To include food, drink, music, fun items for children. Invitations would be sent to all other groups in Occold inviting them to take part in some way.

31 October Pizza and Disco evening for children

5 December Christmas meal

Correspondence: Di was asked to reply to a letter received from the primary school, concerning various items around the school allotment area, planting of trees, and use of new village hall.

A letter had been received from the Pre-school regarding the re-siting of their outside play area. Pending discussions with Sarah over safety issues, this was agreed.

Any other business: Concern was voiced over the amount of stones and debris being left on the main road through the village, by the builders. Linda said that she had definitely seen the contractors clearing up at the end of each day. However this matter would be brought up at the next site meeting.

Following a recent fall, George had decided that he would no longer be able to collect newspapers from around the village, to place in the recycling bank. A card would be sent thanking him for his past efforts and wishing him well.

Dates of meetings: Were set for the year as follows:-

2 March
21 April
12 May – AGM
23 June
11 August
29 September
10 November

The meeting closed at 10.55pm